

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COA-02 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 NIC-01 EB-11 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-06 COME-00

INT-08 SSO-00 SAJ-01 INRE-00 /091 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE/RACHRISTENSEN/MJ

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EUR/EE - RBHOUSTON

S/FW-COA - CMDR. PWELLING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, RO, US

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF ROMANIAN FISHING VESSEL

ROME FOR US DELEGATION TO ICNAF

1. AT 0340 MARCH 26 COAST GUARD SEIZED ROMANIAN FISHING VESSEL INAU FOR ILLEGALLY FISHING WITHIN NINE-MILE CONTIGUOUS FISHERIES ZONE ADJACENT TO US TERRITORIAL SEAS OFF VIRGINIA. ILLEGAL FISHING ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED AT 36 DEGREES 31.4 MINUTES NORTH 75 DEGREES 42.5 WEST, 14,700 YARDS FROM SHORE. VESSEL NOW BEING TAKEN TO BALTIMORE WHERE IT IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE LATE MARCH 26 OR EARLY MARCH 27.

2. YOU SHOULD PASS ABOVE INFORMATION ASAP TO APPROPRIATE MFA OFFICIALS. IN DOING SO, YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS WITHIN TWELVE MILES OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE COAST IS ILLEGAL UNDER PUBLIC LAW 88308 AS AMEND-

ED. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT CASE WILL BE EXAMINED BY US ATTORNEY IN BALTIMORE AND, IF HE DEEMS IT JUSTIFIED, WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE A FEDERAL COURT.

3. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT ABOVE INFORMATION HAS BEEN

GIVEN TO ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND THE EMBASSY ADVISED THAT IT SHOULD RETAIN AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT THE SHIP AND ITS MASTER. THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE FOR AN EMBASSY

OR OTHER ROMANIAN OFFICIAL IN THE US TO BOARD THE VESSEL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ITS ARRIVAL IN BALTIMORE.

4. YOU SHOULD NOTE OUR CONCERN THAT THIS INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED, POINTING OUT THAT LAW ON ILLEGAL FISHING DOES NOT PERMIT ANY DISCRETION IN ITS ENFORCEMENT. YOU SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT US FISHERMEN HAVE CONSISTENTLY BEEN ANGERED BY INROADS OF FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS AND THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS SEIZURES IN THE PAST, INCLUDING THOSE OF SOVIET, WEST GERMAN, AND JAPANESE VESSELS.

5. IF ROMANIANS ASK ABOUT POSSIBLE PENALTIES, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THEY WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO GET BEST INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN ATTORNEY THEY RETAIN.

6. WE DO NOT PLAN ANY PRESS RELEASE ON INCIDENT, BUT IF QUESTIONED, WILL RESPOND WITH FACTS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 ABOVE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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